

## **AVP & COLLEGE COURSES – TRANSFORMING CONFLICT & AVP YOUTH**

**From AVP-L, Feb'2011**

### **Question**

At 08:40 AM 13/02/2011, Novek, Eleanor wrote:

Has anyone taught AVP as a semester-long high school or college class, with sessions once or twice weekly for 15 weeks? Would love to hear if it was successful and see sample agendas, etc.

Elevating Eleanor,  
AVP-New Jersey

### **Answer**

Dear Eleanor

Hi. Yes we have done this in Australia.

We have used two options

1) As AVP-Youth - with a team of AVP Youth facilitators using the AVP Youth and HIPPP manuals. The sessions are divided into 10 to 20 parts for however many weeks you have. We are working on a Sydney AVP Youth/HIP manual at present.

2) As Transforming Conflict which is a spin-off from AVP and AVP-Youth/HIP workshops. This is taught with one teacher/facilitator in a classroom setting ie. the students are not volunteers and the institution requires curriculum accountability, so the depth of learning of an AVP workshop is not achieved.

This has been taught as a national course in the Australian technical education colleges for 10 years. We have a facilitators manual for this called – *Transforming Conflict Facilitating Nonviolence: a facilitators manual*. This was published by the Education Department. They have run out of the cd copies of the manual but there are print copies left if this is useful for you.

### **FACILITATION TIPS**

1) A tip for running short weekly sessions is to use a proper AVP style agenda (ie. welcome, agenda, gathering, community building, light & lively, one or two learning activities, session reflection and close) each time

2) You will also need to do sufficient community building each week to ensure that there is enough safety to do the AVP activities. This is even more important if your students are youth-at-risk.

This means that if you compare all your agendas with a normal 2 to 3 day AVP workshop you will have covered much more community building and affirmation activities that you normally would and maybe less of the later building blocks (like conflict resolution and conflict transformation) activities.

Have you checked out the AVP Youth Committee wiki site -  
<http://avpusayouth.wikispaces.com/>

The Transforming Conflict syllabus and learning outcome details are available on  
<http://avpusayouth.wikispaces.com/Additional+Curricula>

best wishes

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